

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINSHA 04058 221337Z

ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9352

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 4058

FOR AF DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LANNON WALKER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, CG

SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS WITH GOZ ON AFRICAN DEVELOPMENTS

REF: (A) KINSHASA 3806; (B) 3401

1. BEFORE YOUR VISIT HERE YOU SHOULD BE AWARE THAT MOBUTU IS AGAIN IN

ONE OF HIS MOODS OF FEELING NEGLECTED. AS YOU HAVE PERHAPS NOTED IN OUR REPORTING, IN MEETINGS WITH ME AND OTHER AMERICANS DURING RECENT WEEKS MOBUTU HAS TAKEN THE LINE THAT, WHILE THE SUBSTANCE OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS REMAINS GOOD, THE "AMBIENCE" SURROUNDING THEM IS NOT. WHAT HE REALLY MEANS IS THAT HE RESENTS THE ABSENCE OF HIGH-LEVEL

ATTENTION AND EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN WHICH HE ONCE RECEIVED FROM US AND WHICH HE PARTICULARLY NEEDS NOW AS HE PASSES THROUGH A PERIOD OF HEIGHTENED INSECURITY STEMMING FROM REAL OR PERCEIVED COUP PLOTTING, INDICATIONS OF RISING UNREST IN THE COUNTRYSIDE (BANDUNDU), AND REPORTS OF OPPOSITIONIST EFFORTS TO UNITE AND JOIN UP

WITH HOSTILE FORCES IN ANGOLA. AT THE SAME TIME HE SEES OUR ATTENTION

TURNING TOWARD OTHER LEADERS, WITH PRESIDENTIAL VISITS TO ZAIRE'S
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PAGE 02 KINSHA 04058 221337Z

RIVAL NIGERIA AND KAUNDA GOING TO WASHINGTON. NONE OF THIS IS NEW, BUT IT HAS BECOME MORE PRONOUNCED AND IS A FACTOR WHICH WE SHOULD NEITHER IGNORE NOR UNDERESTIMATE FROM THE STANDPOINT OF PURSUING OUR OVER-ALL INTERESTS HERE.

2. IN HIS SEARCH FOR REASSURANCES FROM US, MOBUTU INDUCED TOLBERT TO CONVEY TO PRESIDENT CARTER ZAIRE'S WORRIES ABOUT

INCREASING ENCIRCLEMENT BY SOVIETS/CUBANS AND TO ASK THAT THIS MATTER BE DISCUSSED IN MONROVIA. SINCE THEN MOBUTU HAS HEARD NOTHING EITHER FROM US OR, TO MY KNOWLEDGE, FROM THE LIBERIANS. MEANWHILE I HAVE HAD SEVERAL FEELERS ON THE MATTER BOTH FROM MOBUTU DIRECTLY AND FROM UMBA ON MOBUTU'S INSTRUCTIONS. THESE FEELERS WERE COUCHED IN THE USUAL EXPRESSIONS OF THE MODERATES' CONCERN RE U.S. FAILURE TO COUNTER SOVIET/CUBAN STRATEGY IN AFRICA.

3. IN REF (B) I ASKED FOR A READ-OUT OF WHAT IF ANYTHING OCCURRED IN MONROVIA. IN REF (A) I RECOMMENDED NOT ONLY A READ-OUT BUT ALSO A PRIVATE MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO MOBUTU AT LEAST RECOGNIZING THE LATTER'S CONCERNS AND REITERATING OUR SUPPORT FOR THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF OUR AFRICAN FRIENDS. I REALIZE SUCH A MESSAGE MAY NOT BE FEASIBLE; BUT AT A MINIMUM THERE SHOULD BE A REPLY TO TOLBERT'S LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT WITH STEPS TAKEN TO BE SURE MOBUTU KNOWS ABOUT IT.

4. I HOPE SOME ACTION CAN BE TAKEN BEFORE YOU AND A/S BERGSTEN ARRIVE. BUT IF NOT, I BELIEVE WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO ADDRESS MOBUTU'S CONCERNS WHEN WE SEE HIM. FAILURE TO DO SO WILL ONLY NEEDLESSLY ADD TO HIS GRIEVANCES AND, IN THE LONGER RUN, MAKE HIM LESS AMENABLE TO OUR CONTINUING APPEALS FOR COOPERATION AND REFORM.

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